

**MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING AMENDMENTS**

In the specification, the paragraph starting on page 3 at line 11 has been amended as follows:

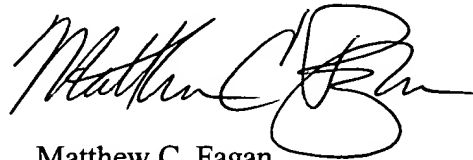
Figure 5 [, which is formed by Figures 5A and 5B,] illustrates, for one embodiment, a flow diagram for maintaining a value by a flash memory based monotonic counter.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite the prosecution of the present application.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any fees or fee deficiencies under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR  
& ZAFMAN, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew C. Fagan", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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